

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above listed claim amendments along with the following remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action set forth above. Claims 1-20, 22, 23, and 26 are pending. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 21, 24 and 25 remain cancelled.

The 112 Rejections

Claims 1-20, 22 and 23 were rejected as being indefinite under 35 USC 112. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to more particularly and distinctly claim applicants' invention. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to now recite that the paint cup in line 7 of amended claim 1 is the same paint cup referred to line 4. Claim 1 has been further amended to delete references to the paint spray gun in the body of the claim to make it clear that the paint spray gun is not being claimed in claim 1. The language referring to the "set of parts" has been amended to clarify that the "set of parts" is the same set of parts which had been in contact with paint from a hand-held paint spray gun during previous operation of the paint spray gun, and that set of parts is inside the paint cup.

Claim 9 has been amended to remove the indefiniteness, and to conform claim 9 to amended claim 1.

For the above reasons, the 112 Rejection has been overcome, and is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

The 102 Rejection

Claim 26 was rejected as anticipated by Amundsen, and the Office Action characterized Amundsen as having "a fluid passageway providing a fluid communication path...to the double lumen fitting such that...all the water...will be directed through the cleaning cap and the extended suction set."

Applicants again earnestly point out that amended claim 26 has substantially all the water flowing through the garden hose directed through the cleaning cap and both of the double lumens of the extended suction set. As such, claim 26 clearly defines over Amundsen, since Amundsen at most would provide water through only one of the lumens of

any extended suction set connected to passageways 34 and 36 (the lumen connected to the passageway 36 of Amundsen will not have any water flowing through it, since water entering through passageway 34 will flow only through the lumen connected to it).

Applicants note that the Office Action alleges that “the cup 40 is present” in the Response to Arguments section regarding claim 26; this is incorrect. There is no cup present in claim 26; when the apparatus of claim 26 is used, the dual hose fitting replaces the cup, as explained in the specification.

For the above reasons, claim 26 is allowable.

The First 103 Rejection

Claims 1-3, 6-13, 19, 20, 22, and 23 were rejected as being obvious over the hypothetical combination of Lewis, USP 6,488,216 in view of Pujol, USP 6,328,639.

The Office Action alleged that Lewis has an outlet passage 20 for the paint cup or container 33. However the reference numeral 20 in Lewis refers to a pressure release member, not the outlet of the container 33. The outlet of container 33 is “conventionally mounted to a spray gun 31” as shown in Figure 1 and described in Lewis at column 3, line 60. Moreover, there is no indication in Lewis that there is any barrier in the outlet of container 33. The fact that there are both upper and lower screen members 26, 27 in the ventilation assembly of Lewis would not prevent any parts in container 33 from being expelled from the container. Adding Pujol to Lewis in a hypothetical combination still does not result in applicants’ invention as claimed in amended claim 1.

For the above reasons, Claim 1 and all claims depending from claim 1 are allowable, and an Office Action so indicating is respectfully requested.

As to claim 7, applicants agree that Lewis has an inlet fluid communication path formed by bore 17 in lid 14, but respectfully controvert that applicants’ claimed limitation of first and second apertures in the inlet fluid communication path are met by the “inlet to the cup and the outlet from the cup.” More specifically, “the outlet from the cup” is not part of the “inlet fluid communication path” as claimed in the instant application; claim 6 (from

which claim 7 depends) makes it clear that the “inlet fluid communication path” is located between the second fitting and the interior of the cup.

For these additional reasons, claims 7-10 are allowable.

As to claims 10-12, applicants respectfully point out that the hose fitting 16 and the pressure release member 20 are not a “pair of sleeves extending from and in fluid communication with the first and second apertures.” Furthermore, the obstructions in the pressure release member 20 do not serve as a crossbar to provide a positive stop for a dual hose fitting, as positively recited in claim 12.

For these additional reasons, claims 10-13 are allowable.

Regarding claims 20, 22 and 23, applicants again point out that, notwithstanding the screen member 26 in the ventilation assembly, Lewis does not teach or suggest any fluid permeable member in its outlet. Because of this, any one of a set of parts in the container 33 of Lewis will not be blocked from expulsion through the outlet, even if they are blocked from passing through the ventilation assembly.

The Second 103 Rejection

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected as being obvious over the hypothetical combination of Lewis, USP 6,488,216 in view of Pujol, USP 6,328,639, further in view of Hubert, USP 3,194,444.

Claims 4 and 5 are allowable for the reasons stated with respect to claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the outstanding Office Action claims 14-18 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claims from which they depend. However, for the reasons stated herein, applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable over the references of record.

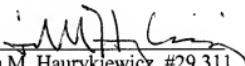
Claim 13

Claim 13 was indicated as rejected in the Office Action Summary, in the 112 rejection, and in the first 103 rejection, but was not addressed in detail in the Office Action. As such, since the 112 rejection and the first 103 rejection have been overcome, claim 13 is believed to be allowable, for the reasons stated with respect to claim 1, and separately for the reasons stated with respect to claim 10, and further because the references of record do not teach or suggest any trough extending from the interior to the exterior of the cap, as is positively claimed in claim 13.

Conclusion

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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